

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

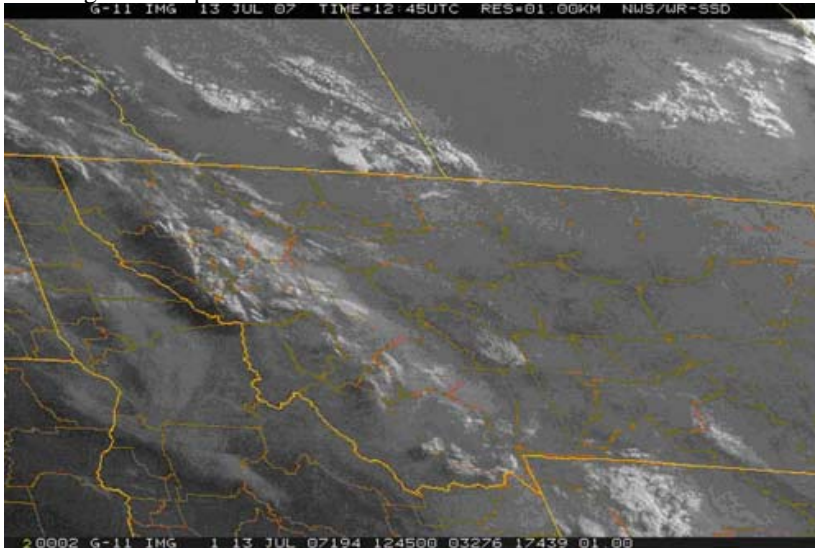
July 13, 2007

10:00 AM Friday, July 13

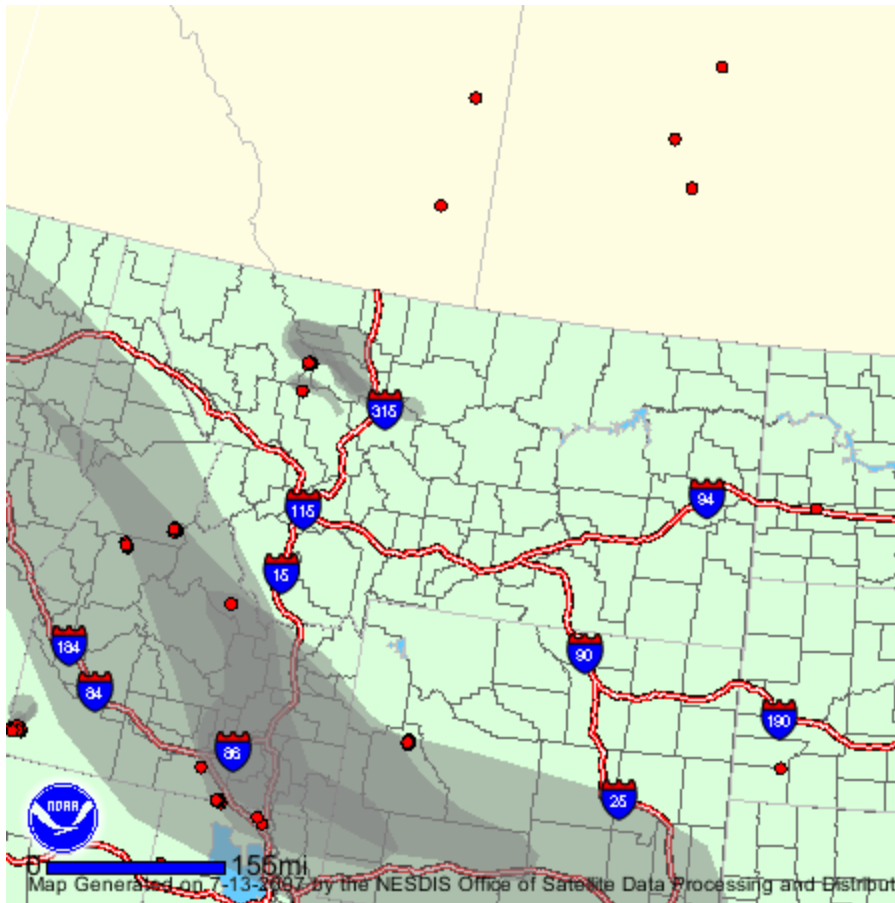
Current Situation

Hazy sky is the rule over much of the state today as smoke aloft from fires in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho has started to work its way across the Treasure State. There are some local impacts from the fires in the Bob Marshall Wilderness but so far impacts have been limited to the areas immediately adjacent to the fires. Some of the smoke aloft may mix down later this morning for some temporary [MODERATE](#) conditions but unless the fire activity ramps up Montana should be OK for the next few days. See the forecast below for details. This web site will not be updated before Monday July 16 unless condition warrant. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/SmokeCategories.asp>

Updated 2 PM July 13, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

HAZARDOUS	
VERY UNHEALTHY	

<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	
<u>MODERATE</u>	

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
 T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
 T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
 Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours)
 Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
 (est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local visibility guidelines

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp> to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

The weekend will be hot and mostly dry with a few scattered thunderstorms. The high pressure ridge will be just about centered over the state which will limit dispersion and transport winds. The smoke should mostly remain aloft with some temporary surface impacts in the late mornings as the mixing height reaches the smoke level aloft. Smoke from the areas west and southwest of Montana will be impacting the state through the weekend. If we get some substantial fire activity locally, smoke conditions could become a problem quickly with the elevated background conditions. Residents near active fires need to remain aware of current conditions and use the visibility guidelines:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp> to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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